

may be that our finances are impaired, that members are not keeping up their dues, and more and much more of the same. Prefacing the statement "I heard" or "they say," our informant retails the depressing information.

May we without offense say to our members that the circulation of such alarms and rumors is opposed to the Society's best interests? It is, we believe, instituted by those who are opposed to the Society and who are wholly outside of the Society. There are evidences that a well-conducted and carefully planned campaign has been going on for some time. It is not instigated or maintained by any member of the Society, but members of the Society can aid it by lending unconscious assistance to the circulation of such statements. Such matters are calculated to disintegrate the Society's organization, to instill doubt and foreboding in the mind of every member as to the strength of the Society's organization, and particularly as to the efficacy of the legal defense measures used by the Society and its legal department.

The point is this: When you hear or see any statement, oral or written, critical or derogatory of your own officers and representatives, do not circulate it, but take it up, either by seeing or writing to the officer or representative criticized, and if not satisfied with his statement then take it to the Councillor for your district and ask him to look into the matter for you.

We scarcely think it necessary for us to say that there is not a particle of truth in such statements. Our organization was never in better condition. Our membership roll, taking the war into consideration, shows a healthy total. Our finances are in sound condition—our books are kept under the eye of a firm of certified public accountants. The report of our legal department for 1917 discloses nothing but an unbroken line of successful efforts for our members.

So we say, criticize your officers and representatives—yes, but do so on facts known to you, and then go to some one in authority. Make your officers and representatives suggestions, they like to get them; but don't aid in the spreading of any rumor designed to disintegrate or weaken our splendid organization—and that, in the possible and probable interest of influences desiring such a result.

MEDICAL MOBILIZATION.

Until the entire medical profession of the United States, so far as its members are mentally and physically fit and within the age limit, is mobilized in the Medical Reserve Corps of the Army, we cannot say that we have done our utmost as a profession in the German war. You may never be called, at the same time your joining the Medical Reserve Corps and placing your services at the command of your country, clearly indicates the patriotism which the medical profession, as a whole, should evince and which we must manifest if we are to win the war.

Every doctor must realize that success depends upon a carefully selected and thoroughly trained body of medical officers. By careful selection, we

mean the placing of a medical officer in the position for which he is best fitted. Only by having the entire profession mobilized on a war basis, can we serve our country to the best possible advantage. This mobilization of the entire profession should come from within, but every physician coming within the requirements of the service, as to age and physical fitness, should seriously consider this suggestion and not wait for complete mobilization, but should apply at once for a commission in the Medical Reserve Corps of the Army.

It is not only for the combatant forces that medical officers are required but for sanitation, hospital camps, cantonments and in other departments where the health and life of the forces are dependent upon the medical officer. We have within the profession a sufficient number of doctors to fully meet the requirements of the Surgeon General's Office whatever they might be, but to be of service, you must join the Medical Reserve Corps to enable you to meet the appeal which is now being made for a large and efficient Medical Reserve Corps upon which the Surgeon General may draw as requirements demand.

WAR CLASSIFICATION OF MEDICAL COLLEGES.

Attention was called recently (Dec., 1917) to the situation arising in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in San Francisco, due to the fact that while this institution was accredited by the California State Board of Medical Examiners, it had failed to receive recognition from the War Department whereby its graduates could directly qualify for commissions in the medical corps of the Army, or its undergraduates be given recognition as medical students under the draft law. Inasmuch as the Class C. rating of this college has recently been confirmed by the Council on Education of the A. M. A., and inasmuch as the Army has not altered its dictum regarding recognition, there seems but one logical course for the State Board of Medical Examiners to pursue, under present war conditions, and for the best interests of the Army and of the students here enrolled. Certainly for the duration of the war the government minimum requirements of medical education should obtain for all colleges accredited by the State Board. As a war measure, no lower standard should be allowed. The demand of the Army for properly trained doctors should not lead to a lowering of the standard of medical education, but should be a powerful and patriotic motive for raising it.

NAVY NEEDS MEDICAL OFFICERS.

Considerable uncertainty appears to exist as to the status of the enrollment in the Naval Reserve Force, of registrants under the Selective Draft Law, since December 15, 1917. The following is quoted from the Selective Service Regulations operative from that date:

"(C) Any registrant at any time, regardless of classification and order number, may be commissioned in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps, and thereafter, on presentation by the registrant to his local Board of a certificate of his Commanding Officer stating that he has been so commissioned,

such certificate shall be filed with the questionnaire and the registrant shall be placed in class V, on the ground that he is in the military or naval service of the United States."

As the Navy is still urgently in need of medical officers to answer the constantly increasing calls for sea and shore duty, particular attention is hereby called to the fact that registrants can present themselves for examination and accept commissions in the Navy regardless of their classification and order number, that the Navy is urgently in need of men, and that candidates found qualified will be assigned to immediate active duty if so desired.

Those candidates found qualified for enrollment and serving as interns will be, as far as practicable, left untouched in order to complete such course of internship. No definite assurance, however, can be given, as this action will necessarily largely depend upon the number of older men enrolled.

Applicants are requested to communicate with, or apply to, Dr. U. R. Webb, Senior Medical Examiner, U. S. Naval Hospital, Mare Island, California.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

It is a pleasure to note that the monthly bulletin of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States for January, 1918, quotes in full the editorial entitled "A Bad Situation" which appeared in the December issue of the Journal.

In France and Germany the pharmaceutical corps is a necessary adjunct to the Medical Corps, and it is just as necessary to have qualified pharmacists in our own Army. The medical corps needs trained pharmacists. The soldier is entitled to the same protection against ignorant and careless dispensers that is afforded to civilians by the Pharmacy Laws.

You will remember an editorial published in the Journal of the American Medical Association as follows: "Today, as never before, victory in war goes to the nation that most effectively conserves the health of its fighting men. The physician is now of such military importance that the medical profession will be called on to make no inconsiderable sacrifices. It will materially lighten the arduous and responsibilities of the physician to have in the Army trained pharmacists who will be able to give intelligent cooperation. But it is imposing too great a strain on the patriotism of those whose special knowledge is obviously a large asset to the Army, to expect them to enlist as privates without any recognition of their national worth. Pharmacists should be given a rank commensurate with their importance, first because it is but simple justice to the pharmacists themselves, secondly, because the usefulness of the medical corps will be greatly augmented, and, lastly, and most important, because the efficiency of our Army demands it."

Any one in the Army Medical Service is now permitted to dispense drugs and medicines after he has been given a brief instruction in pharmacy, but the pharmacists who have served their time at home in studying, securing drug store experience

and passing the State Board examination are not recognized by the United States Army as pharmacists. The medical profession should support the Edmonds Bill (H. R. 5531) for the establishment of a pharmaceutical corps.

In the new Journal of Psycho-Biology for September, 1917 (p. 141), K. S. Lashley records some interesting experiments on white rats with reference to the effects of strychnine and caffeine on habit formation. He finds that small doses of strychnine are without effect on the rate of habit formation, while doses large enough to produce tremor and incoordination accelerated learning. Caffeine in moderate and large doses, retards learning in direct proportion to the size of dose. Strychnine in large doses increases accuracy of performance of a perfected established habit. Large doses of caffeine caused more activity and reduced the accuracy of performance. Such data on elementary psychological responses to drug action are of particular value with those drugs which are, or may be, used for psychic stimulants.

The fight against tuberculosis has graduated from the moving-picture house and is about to appear in this country on the legitimate stage with Robert Edson, of "Little Minister" and "Strongheart" fame, in the leading role. The play, entitled "Love Forbidden," is by Jacques Renaud and has had a seven-months' run in Paris. While this play is a pathologic drama like "Damaged Goods," which enjoyed such a phenomenal run a few years ago, it is declared by critics to be much more appealing and interesting as a piece of dramatic workmanship. It has been officially approved by the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, which pronounces it a powerful agent for promoting the education of the public as to the menace of the great white plague and the methods of combating it.

It is astonishing how many manuscripts are received in which the verb "to operate" is employed as a transitive verb. Such use is incorrect and jars on the ear of good usage. The surgeon "operates upon the patient," but never, unless he is poorly lettered, "operates the patient." Moreover, the patient in the hands of the good surgeon should not "be operated," but should "be operated upon."

The special article in this issue by Dr. Gallwey brings up a matter of considerable importance and one which has not received the emphasis it deserves. This is the proper tabulation and record of the results of physical examinations under the draft law. Such results will be of real value, and proper means should be utilized in the coming examinations to make them full and reliable.

Oleomargarine is a worthy substitute for butter if a good brand is secured and it is fresh. It has nearly the same calorific value, is not unpleasant in taste, and costs about two-thirds as much as butter. It may not have the same vitamin content, but this is not a matter of importance in the ordinary dietary.